United Nations A/58/PV.78

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

78th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 23 December 2003, 3 p.m.
New York

President: The Hon. Julian R. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Reports of the Second Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Second Committee on agenda items 91 to 104 and 12.

I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee, Mr. José Alberto Briz Gutiérrez of Guatemala, to introduce the reports of the Second Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala), Rapporteur of the Second Committee (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to present for consideration the following reports of the Second Committee on the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Under agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraphs 17 and 18 of document A/58/495, the adoption of two draft resolutions and two draft decisions, respectively.

Under sub-item (a) of agenda item 91, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 12 of document A/58/481/Add.1, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under sub-item (b) of agenda 91, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraphs 14 and 15 of document A/58/481/Add.2, the adoption of two draft resolutions and of two draft decisions, respectively.

Under sub-items (c) and (t) of agenda item 91, entitled, respectively, "Macroeconomic policy questions: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries" and "Macroeconomic policy questions: Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document A/58/481/Add.3, the adoption of one draft resolution and of one draft decision, respectively.

Under sub-item (d) of agenda item 91, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions: International financial system and development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 7 of document A/58/481/Add.4, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (e) of agenda item 91, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions: External debt crisis and development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 7 of document A/58/481/Add.5, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (g) of agenda item 91, entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions: Commodities", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/58/481/Add.6, the adoption of one draft resolution.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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Under agenda item 92, entitled "Sectoral policy questions: preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 9 of document A/58/482, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Agenda item 93 is entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation". Under sub-item (a), entitled "Women in development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 7 of document A/58/483/Add.1, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (b) of agenda item 93, entitled "Human resources development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/58/483/Add.2, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (c) of agenda item 93, entitled "International migration and development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/58/483/Add.3, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (d) of agenda item 93, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 4 of document A/58/483/Add.4, the adoption of one draft decision.

Agenda item 94 is entitled "Environment and sustainable development". Under sub-item (a), entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005", I would first like to call the attention of the plenary to a correction in paragraph 2 of the report the Second Committee contained in document A/58/484/Add.1: San Marino and Andorra are to be added to the list of subsequent sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.26. The Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 7 of the same document, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (b) of the agenda item 94, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa", *the Second Committee recommends, in* paragraph 14 of document A/58/484/Add.2, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under sub-item (c) of agenda item 94, entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/58/484/Add.3, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (d) of agenda item 94, entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 8 of document A/58/484/Add.4, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (e) of agenda item 94, entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 15 of document A/58/484/Add.5, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under sub-item (f) of agenda item 94, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 11 of document A/58/484/Add.6, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item (g) of agenda item 94, entitled "Sustainable mountain development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 7 of document A/58/484/Add.7, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 94, entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 6 of document A/58/484/Add.8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 95, entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 14 of document A/58/485, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 96, entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 10 of document A/58/486, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Agenda item 97 is entitled "Operational activities for development". Under sub-item (a), entitled "Operational activities", and sub-item (b), entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", the Second Committee recommends, in

paragraph 13 of document A/58/487, the adoption of one draft resolution, and, in paragraph 14, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 98, entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 16 of document A/58/488, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 99, entitled "Training and research", I would first like to call the attention of the plenary to a correction in draft resolution I, contained in document A/58/489, entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research". In operative paragraph 5 of that draft, the words "Institute's training office at Hiroshima, Japan" are to be replaced with the words "UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan". Operative paragraph 5 should then read as follows: "Also welcomes the establishment of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan". With this correction, the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 16 of document A/58/489, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 100, entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 12 of document A/58/490, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 101, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 15 of document A/58/491, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 102, entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 12 of document A/58/492, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 103, entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 9 of document A/58/493, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 104, entitled "Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development", the Second Committee recommends, in paragraph 15 of document A/58/494, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity sincerely to thank the Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury of Bangladesh, as well as the Vice-Chairpersons, Ms. Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg of Sweden, Mrs. Irena Zubčević of Croatia and Mr. Henri Raubenheimer of South Africa for their exceptional cooperation and partnership during this very productive session of the Second Committee.

Finally, I would like sincerely to thank all the delegations that participated in our work; their dedication and efforts were essential for the accomplishment of the task entrusted by the Assembly to the Second Committee during the current session. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Secretariat for its outstanding assistance to me and all the members of the Bureau.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Second Committee, I should like to advise

representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Second Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance.

This means that where a recorded vote was taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Second Committee.

Agenda item 91

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481 and Corr.1)

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 58/544).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 91.

(a) International trade and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "International trade and Development", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/197).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine

Draft resolution II was adopted by 125 votes to 1, with 37 abstentions (resolution 58/198).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Bhutan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Romania had intended to abstain.]

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

(b) Science and technology for development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report and on the two draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 15 of the same report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures", was adopted by the Second Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/199).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Science and technology for development", was adopted by the Second Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/200).

The President: Draft decision I, entitled "Science and technology for development", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/545).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II recommended by the Second Committee?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/546).

The President: I call on the representative of the United States of America, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the decision just adopted.

Mrs. Tamlyn (United States of America): The United States understands that the General Assembly, in all of its decisions today to take note of reports of the Secretary-General, is doing so consistent with General Assembly decision 55/488 of 7 September 2001.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

(c) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

(f) Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.3)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 9 of the same report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/201).

The President: The draft decision is entitled "Report on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/547).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-items (c) and (f) of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

(d) International financial system and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.4)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/202).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

(e) External debt crisis and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.5)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/203).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 91?

It was so decided.

(g) Commodities

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.6)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/204).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 91 and of agenda item 91 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 92

Sectoral policy questions: preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/482)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/205).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 92?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 93

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/483)

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 58/548).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 93.

(a) Women in development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/483/Add.1 and Corr.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/206).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

(b) Human resources development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/483/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/207).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

(c) International migration and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/483/Add.3)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/208).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

(d) Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/483/Add.4)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 4 of its report.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on progress towards and challenges and constraints to the achievement of the major development goals and objectives adopted by the United Nations during the past decade", recommended by the Second Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/549).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 93 and of agenda item 93 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 94

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484 and A/58/484/Add.8)

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee contained in document A/58/484?

It was so decided (decision 58/550).

The President: The Assembly will now turn to the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 6 of its report contained in document A/58/484/Add.8.

The draft resolution, entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-second session", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/209).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 94.

(a) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/210).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

(b) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.2)

The President: Before proceeding further, I should like to inform members that action on draft resolution I will be postponed until the next meeting of the Assembly, scheduled to take place today at 6.30 p.m., so as to allow time for the review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on draft resolution I as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution II recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

Draft resolution II, entitled "International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/211).

The President: I give the floor to the representative of the United States, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mrs. Tamlyn (United States of America): The United States is disappointed by the continued diversion of resources from the United Nations regular budget to subsidize an independent and self-sustaining treaty body, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. As a matter of principle, treaty bodies can and should collect the necessary funds from their membership to finance their activities.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 94.

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.3)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/212).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

(d) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.4)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/213).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

(e) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.5)

The President: The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 15 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/214).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/215).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 94.

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.6)

The President: I should like to inform members that action on the draft resolution contained in the report will be postponed until to the next meeting of the Assembly, scheduled to take place today at 6.30 p.m., to allow time for the review of its programme budget implications by the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will take action on the draft resolution as soon as the report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is available.

(g) Sustainable mountain development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.7)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Sustainable development and mountain regions", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/216).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 95

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/485)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of that report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "International Decade for Action", 'Water for Life', 2005-2015", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/217).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the

Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/218).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 95?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 96

United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/486)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/219).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 96?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 97

Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/487)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 14 of the same report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/220).

The President: We turn now to the draft decision.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision entitled "Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women", recommended by the Second Committee?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/551).

The President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 97?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 98

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/488)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 16 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/221).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/222).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 99

Training and research

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/489)

The President: I now call on the representative of Spain, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Colomina (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain endorses the content of the draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. However, we would like to clarify our position on operative paragraph 4 of the draft, which relates to the need to continue developing and expanding partnerships between the Institute and other bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, in particular at the country level.

Spain would like to place on record the fact that it interprets this operative paragraph as referring solely to the establishment of partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and definitely not to possible partnerships between UNITAR and territorial, non-State entities.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 16 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research", was adopted by the Second Committee and was orally corrected by the Rapporteur. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt this resolution?

Draft resolution I, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/223).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "United Nations System Staff College in Turin, Italy", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/224).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 99?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 100

Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/490)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/225).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 100?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 101

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/491)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 15 of its report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/226).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/227).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 101?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 102

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/492)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 12 of its report.

The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/228).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 102?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 103

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/493)

The President: I now call on the representative of Israel, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Sermoneta (Israel): My delegation deeply regrets that the substantive debate in the Second Committee this year was once again used as a platform from which to level accusations against Israel and to adopt a draft resolution which is completely one-sided, inaccurate and, ultimately, counterproductive.

The draft resolution before us has nothing to do with the issues addressed by the Second Committee, and it shifts the focus of our work from those activities identified by Member States as priorities. Its adoption will only invite the further politicization of the work of the Second Committee by the Palestinians, as well as by others, and will further distract us from the important work on our agenda.

As we sought this year to strengthen the Organization by aligning the work of the Second Committee with the priorities outlined in the outcomes of the major international conferences, it appears that this politically motivated item, whose impact is dubious, might have been an appropriate place from which to start the process of rationalizing and harmonizing our work.

Moreover, the draft resolution will contribute nothing to the achievement of a lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, as it prejudges issues that the sides had agreed would be addressed through direct bilateral negotiations, thus undermining the bilateral spirit of the peace process.

As in past years, Israel will vote against this biased and counterproductive draft resolution. We urge other delegations to do the same.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan,

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nauru, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga

The draft resolution was adopted by 157 votes to 4, with 10 abstentions (resolution 58/229).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 103?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 104

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/494)

The President: I give the floor to the representative of South Africa on a point of order.

Mr. Raubenheimer (South Africa): I apologize, Mr. President, for interrupting your work, which has been running so smoothly.

We need to make a slight correction to operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption in paragraph 15 of the report. In the title of the proposed agenda item, the words "the implementation" should be replaced with "and implementation", and the words "outcome of the" should be added, so that it reads "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development".

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 15 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution, as orally corrected?

The draft resolution, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/230).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 104?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/495)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 17 of its report and on the two draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 18 of the same report.

Draft resolution I, entitled "Public administration and development", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/231).

The President: Draft resolution II, entitled "Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization", was adopted by the Second Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/232).

The President: Draft decision I is entitled "Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I, recommended by the Second Committee?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/552).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Provisional programme of work of the Second Committee for 2004".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, United States of America

Draft decision II was adopted by 167 votes to 3 (decision 58/553).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Kuwait informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

[In the 79th plenary meeting the Rapporteur of the Second Committee drew attention to the text of a draft decision, distributed at that meeting and subsequently issued as A/58/495/Corr.1, that was meant to be included in A/48/495 as draft decision II. Thus the draft text adopted as decision 58/553 has been renumbered draft decision III.]

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 39 ***(continued)***

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Draft resolution (A/58/L.17/Rev.1)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolutions (A/58/L.55 and A/58/L.56)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held the debate on this agenda item from the 32nd to 35th plenary meetings, on 15 and 16 October 2003.

I give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce draft resolutions A/58/L.17/Rev.1 and A/58/L.56.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa). I have the honour to present draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1, under sub-item (a) of agenda item 39 of the General Assembly, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". The draft resolution is based on the general debate in

the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, including the proposal made therein on the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "The New Partnership for Africa's Development: first consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support" (A/58/254). The negotiations were smooth, and there was consensus on the content of various parts of the draft resolution. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an important framework for achieving accelerated growth and economic and sustainable development in Africa. NEPAD recognizes that peace and security and good governance, including, among other things, the rule of law, transparency and respect for human rights, are important to attaining sustained growth and sustainable development.

In its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, the General Assembly adopted NEPAD as the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations, should focus its efforts for Africa's development. The Group of Eight (G-8) countries have also made NEPAD the framework for their support to Africa. The principles of ownership and partnership of the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development will also support the implementation of NEPAD.

While recognizing that progress has been made in the implementation of the objectives and priorities of NEPAD, the draft resolution calls upon Member States and the international community, including the United Nations, to announce their support in moving forward with the implementation of NEPAD.

This draft resolution welcomes the efforts of African countries in the management and resolution of conflicts in the region, as well as the progress made in the African Peer Review Mechanism, particularly with regard to the accession of a number of States members of the African Union and the appointment of the panel of eminent persons for the African Peer Review Mechanism.

The draft resolution further recognizes the efforts made by African countries in raising awareness of NEPAD and involving all stakeholders, namely, Governments, the private sector and civil society, including women's organizations, in the implementation of NEPAD. It also heralds the decision of the African Union's Executive Council to integrate NEPAD into the African Union structures and processes.

The issue of adequate external financial resources for the implementation of NEPAD is a critical one. In this regard, the draft resolution welcomes the pledges made by the development partners for increased official development assistance, including to the untying of such assistance. The draft resolution stresses the need to find a durable solution to Africa's external debt problem, especially for heavily indebted poor countries in Africa.

Equally important is the issue of increased market access through trade and the need for developed countries and their partners to support the promotion of private investment, particularly in the key sectors of African economies. The draft resolution further recognizes the need to take concrete steps to implement the existing frameworks for South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation in the implementation of NEPAD.

The draft resolution notes with satisfaction the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system and encourages them to continue such efforts to support the implementation of NEPAD. It also welcomes the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

The draft resolution further requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of NEPAD based on the inputs from various stakeholders.

I wish to express the African Group's appreciation to all members of the Group of 77 and China for their strong support during the negotiation process. We also thank them for sponsoring this draft resolution, together with a number of other countries. Among those who have joined us in sponsorship are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain and Sweden.

Before presenting this draft resolution for adoption, there is a slight correction I would like to make in the second last line of the sixth preambular paragraph. As it now appears, it is the "African Partnership Forum". In fact, it should read "Africa Partnership Forum".

I wish to present, through you, Mr. President, this draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly.

I am now pleased to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.56. This draft appears under agenda item 39 (b) and is entitled

"Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

The draft resolution is based on the general debate in the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, including the proposals made therein on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/58/352).

The Secretary-General's report underscores the nexus between peace and development. NEPAD also recognizes peace and security as an important precondition for Africa's development. The recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's 1998 report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871) are as pertinent and relevant to the African situation today as they were when the report was submitted in 1998 to the Security Council and subsequently to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. As such, the draft resolution reaffirms that the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report must remain a priority on the agenda of the United Nations and Member States, and that the General Assembly must continue to play the primary role in monitoring progress in the implementation of the recommendations.

The draft resolution reaffirms that the responsibility for peace and security lies primarily with African countries as well as with regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the efforts of African countries towards establishing a peace and security council of the African Union, while it encourages African Union member States that have not yet ratified the protocol to do so. It welcomes the decision of the European Union to establish a peace facility to support the establishment of the African Peace and Security Mechanism to support African efforts and peace initiatives. It also welcomes the establishment of the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict, such as Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. In addition, it underscores that Member States and the United Nations system should support efforts in conflict prevention and post-conflict development through enhanced coordination, coherence and sustained financial and political support.

The draft resolution recognizes that poverty eradication is a critical challenge to achieving sustained economic growth and development. The draft resolution calls upon Member States to provide adequate support to eradicate poverty and to strengthen institutions to maintain the rule of law, transparency and accountable public administration.

The draft resolution notes with concern that progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report remains slow and uneven, and it notes the need to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. In that regard, it welcomes the designation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to continue to monitor — through the already-established interdepartmental task force on African affairs — progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report. It further requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

In submitting this draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly, I wish to express the appreciation of the African Group to all members of the Group of 77 and China for their support during the negotiation process. We also wish to thank them, together with a number of other countries, for sponsoring the draft resolution. Among those that have joined the list of sponsors recently are Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, Rwanda, Singapore and Sweden.

This draft resolution is being presented for adoption by the General Assembly.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mozambique to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.55.

Mr. Chidumo (Mozambique): On behalf of the African Union, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.55, entitled "International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda". I am pleased to announce that the following countries have joined the list of sponsors: Ethiopia,

Germany, Greece, Mauritius, the Republic of Korea, Somalia, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

From April to July 1994, we witnessed in Rwanda one of the most despicable acts of genocide in the history of mankind when up to 1 million people were brutally murdered in a tragedy in which Rwandans, Africans and, ultimately, humanity at large were the victims. The genocide in Rwanda remains a vivid memory of the cruelty that Rwandans have endured, and it requires us to reflect on the matter with a view to preventing it from ever happening again.

Within the framework of preventing and dealing with the wounds of genocide, the Executive Council of the African Union decided, at its second ordinary session, held in 2002 in Ndjamena, to recommend the proclamation of an International Day of Reflection on the 1994Genocide in Rwanda and recommitment to the fight against genocide throughout the world. That recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the second ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Maputo in July 2003. It was therefore on instruction from the heads of State and Government of the African Union that we tabled this draft resolution, which, if adopted, would mainly decide to designate 7 April 2004 as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda and seek the solidarity and commitment of the international community at large in observing that day through relevant commemorative activities.

The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda would enable us to honour the memory of those innocent men, women, children and elderly persons who died at the hands of extremist killers in Rwanda. The International Day of Reflection would also enable us to recommit ourselves to ensuring that genocide never happens again anywhere on our planet. As the international community, we must ensure that our "never again" really means "never again". To that end, the draft resolution calls on all States to ensure that there is no repetition of the kind of event that occurred in Rwanda.

It is the wish of the sponsors that this draft resolution be adopted by consensus. In that regard, I call upon all Member States to show their solidarity by adopting the draft resolution by consensus.

The President: Before we proceed further, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider the draft resolutions contained in documents A/58/L.17/Rev.1, A/58/L.55 and A/58/L.56. In that connection, since the draft resolutions were circulated only today, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with this proposal.

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly will proceed to consider draft resolutions A/58/L.17/Rev.1, A/58/L.55 and A/58/L.56.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. Kelley (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to inform representatives that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 33 and 34 of draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1, the General Assembly would welcome the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, would request the Secretary-General to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, and would request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

By its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly approved the transfer of the resources allocated to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and those from the Office of the Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, to the new Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the new Office is reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 with the allocation of adequate resources for its expanded mandate. The Assembly also entrusted that Office with responsibility for, inter alia, coordinating and guiding the preparation of Africa-related reports and inputs, in particular support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and for coordinating the interdepartmental task force on

African affairs to ensure the coherence of and an integrated approach to United Nations support for Africa.

Provisions for these activities have already been included in section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Hence, no additional appropriations would be required as a result of the draft resolution.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that, since its introduction, Ukraine has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/58/L.17/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/233).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.55, entitled "International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that, since its introduction, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/58/L.55: the Russian Federation and France.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.55?

Draft resolution A/58/L.55 was adopted (resolution 58/234).

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.56, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that, since its introduction, Italy has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/58/L.56.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.56?

Draft resolution A/58/L.56 was adopted (resolution 58/235).

The President: I call on the representative of Canada, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on resolution 58/234.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Price (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada was a sponsor of draft resolution A/58/L.55 on the establishment of an International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, and we supported its adoption.

(*spoke in English*)

Over the past decade, we have continued to witness events which make a mockery of declarations of "never again". Appropriately commemorating the horrific events of April 1994 is essential to understanding not just our past failures, but also our future responsibilities. For the United Nations to remain relevant, we must not avert our eyes from such atrocities because some Members insist on a narrow interpretation of sovereignty — one that implies only privileges, not responsibilities. We should acknowledge that States have a fundamental responsibility to protect their people, and that there is a related responsibility of the international community to take action to prevent or halt genocide or other atrocities when the State in question is unable or unwilling to do so, as was so tragically the case in Rwanda.

(*spoke in French*)

We must deal with this crucial issue in the context of discussions on the reform of the United Nations, as the Secretary-General has emphasized. In recognizing its errors of the past, the international community must strengthen its resolve to respond more effectively in future for the benefit of the peoples of the world — those for whom the Charter was written.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 39?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 47

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Draft resolution (A/58/L.54)

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/58/L.54.

I call on the representative of Singapore, who wishes to speak in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution.

May I remind delegations that explanations of position are limited to 10 minutes, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): In the interests of saving time, I will not read out the full text of my explanation of position, as I believe the text will be circulated shortly.

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for putting forward this important draft resolution, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS". I would also like to commend my good friend Mr. Denis Dangue Réwaka, the Permanent Representative of Gabon, and his colleagues, for having held successful consultations on behalf of the Office of the President. We believe that the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution before us today will help to keep the international community focused on combating the scourge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Singapore has requested this opportunity to state its full support for the global effort to combat HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has grown into a global crisis of staggering proportions. The latest statistics on the disease make for sobering reading. According to the joint report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization, *AIDS Epidemic Update 2003*, an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2003.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been by far the worst affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Southern Africa alone accounts for about 30 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide — yet this region has less than 2 per cent of the world's population. In its World Health Report 2003, the World Health Organization noted that HIV/AIDS has cut life expectancy by as much as 20 years for millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

At his press conference on 18 December 2003, the Secretary-General described combating HIV/AIDS as one of the Organization's top priorities for the coming year. He noted that the epidemic was killing 8,000 people a day. He rightly pointed out that, for the countries worst afflicted by HIV/AIDS — like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia — the AIDS epidemic is a "real weapon of mass destruction".

Amid the gloom of the current HIV/AIDS crisis, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria stands out as a beacon of hope in combating the epidemic. As a partnership among Governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities, the Global Fund represents an innovative approach to international health financing. Global Fund grants will support a major scaling-up of HIV treatment. Over the next five years, more than 500,000 people will begin to receive antiretroviral treatment, representing a near tripling of coverage in poor countries, including more than a sixfold increase in Africa. In line with the Secretary-General's recent call for the Global Fund to be fully funded, I am pleased to announce that Singapore will be contributing $1 million over five years to the Fund, beginning in 2004.

As part of a region where the epidemic is rapidly growing, Singapore also faces the challenge of combating HIV/AIDS. Hence, we have made prevention of the disease a key priority. We have adopted a comprehensive, multisectoral national AIDS control programme. At the regional and international levels, Singapore cooperates actively with the Association of South-East Asian Nations to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in South-East Asia. And, at the international level, Singapore cooperates with the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a serious global problem and poses one of the greatest challenges to mankind. It is only right that the international community continue to pay serious attention and to redouble its efforts to address this mounting global crisis. That is why we are very pleased to support the draft resolution before us for consideration.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position before action is taken on the draft resolution.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.54, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.54?

Draft resolution A/58/L.54 was adopted (resolution 58/236).

The President: I call on the representative of Brazil, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Meyer (Brazil): Brazil wishes to offer an explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution contained in document A/58/L.54, on the follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session.

We attach high priority to the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and we welcome the adoption of this resolution by consensus. There is no doubt that HIV/AIDS represents one of the greatest challenges of our time. We must send a strong signal on the urgent need for strengthening and accelerating the global response to the pandemic.

As made clear by my delegation throughout the negotiating process, we remain concerned that the ninth preambular paragraph contains the expression "emphasis on prevention measures" and that operative paragraph 5 (d) (i) refers to the statement "prevention is the mainstay of the national, regional and international response". For there to be any real hope of success in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, we must acknowledge that prevention, care, support and treatment are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response. They must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic. The provision contained in the eighth preambular paragraph must be our guiding principle.

"Prevention" refers to measures aimed at protecting non-infected persons from contracting HIV. Nevertheless, people infected with HIV/AIDS need care, support and treatment. We cannot abandon the 42 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS. We must therefore address prevention and treatment on the same footing and with the same emphasis. And we say that on the basis of our concrete accomplishments.

Brazil's positive experience related to the effects of free and universal access to medication, including antiretroviral therapy, is widely acknowledged. Since 1996, we have seen AIDS-related mortality slashed by 50 per cent. Hospital admissions have dropped 75 per cent. Opportunistic illnesses have been drastically reduced. The positive consequences of this cost-effective policy are far-reaching. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS today in Brazil — 1 million — is half of what the World Bank foresaw a decade ago for the year 2003. The successful results that Brazil has achieved in its fight against HIV/AIDS are the outcome of a strong approach to both prevention and treatment as well as human rights advocacy.

The global response to HIV/AIDS must be commensurate with the scale of the pandemic. It is a tragedy that, in addition to the 42 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, the pandemic claimed more than 3 million lives in 2003 and has orphaned 14 million children. It must also be noted with profound concern that an estimated 5.5 million people in low- and middle-income countries are considered in need of antiretroviral therapy, but that only an estimated 300,000 are receiving those medicines.

Hence, the emergency to which operative paragraph 3 refers means the global health emergency: the failure to deliver antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS to the millions of people who need it, as defined by UNAIDS and the World Health Organization. It is a notion contained in the resolution entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria", adopted yesterday by the General Assembly.

In the eleventh preambular paragraph, we are reaffirming the importance of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS, including those most vulnerable. And we must be reminded that no grounds for discrimination — including sexual orientation — to prevent the full enjoyment of human rights are legitimate.

In operative paragraph 6, we welcome with appreciation the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health and the World Trade Organization's decision of 30 August on a mechanism to give developing countries that cannot produce cheap generic drugs the right to import them from other countries that can. It is imperative to work to

implement that agreement to provide for better access to low-cost and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products. And it is equally imperative that the international community support developing countries in achieving the "3 by 5" target, as mentioned in operative paragraph 7.

Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to your Office and to Ambassador Denis Dangue Réwaka, Permanent Representative of Gabon, the facilitator of the informal consultations, for his dedication in helping Member States to reach consensus on this resolution. We also request that this statement be made part of the official record.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Dangue Réwaka of Gabon for having so ably conducted the negotiations on the resolution just adopted.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 47.

Agenda item 51

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution (A/58/L.53)

The President: Members will recall that the General Assembly held a debate on this agenda item at its 41st plenary meeting, on 22 October 2003. In this connection, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution, issued as document A/58/L.53. I give the floor to the representative of South Africa to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.53.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): On behalf of all countries concerned about malaria, I would like to express my deep appreciation for all the delegations who cooperated in ensuring smooth progress and a positive outcome to the negotiations on the draft resolution before the Assembly today under item 51.

As the Assembly knows, malaria is one of Africa's deadliest diseases. In fact, malaria remains the single biggest cause of death worldwide, especially among children. At least 1 million children die of malaria each year, 90 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. The disease places an enormous burden on the healthcare systems of poor countries, and, like HIV/AIDS, is a major factor in slowing economic development.

I have the honour to introduce this draft resolution on behalf of Cameroon, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Japan, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden, Togo and Uganda.

The draft resolution calls on the international community to support ways of developing the manufacturing capacity of insecticide-treated nets in Africa and to facilitate the transfer of technology to make those nets more effective and long-lasting. The need for effective, prompt, affordable and quality treatment is also of the utmost importance. We stress those recommendations in particular because African countries may not be able to meet the targets set at the Abuja Summit or at the Millennium Summit if serious efforts are not made to scale-up successful programmes. That will require additional resources. The draft resolution calls on the international community to renew efforts to ensure that the fight against malaria receives adequate funding to support sound national plans to control malaria in endemic countries, countries which are often found among the poorest. It is clear that without making progress on malaria the other critical Millennium Development Goals will not be met in Africa by 2015.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.53. Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors of A/58/L.53: Ireland and Italy.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.53?

It was so decided (resolution 58/237).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 51?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

United Nations A/58/PV.79

General Assembly

Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

79th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 23 December 2003, 6.30 p.m.
New York

President: The Hon. Julian R. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

The meeting was called to order at 7.05 p.m.

The President: Let me first apologize for the delay, which was due to circumstances entirely beyond our control. I am sure that members understand that we are endeavouring to make every effort to conclude this evening, rather than continue tomorrow. I thank members for their patience.

Agenda item 26 (*continued*)

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Draft resolutions (A/58/L.30/Rev.1 and A/58/L.38)

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/58/653 and A/58/654)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on this agenda item at its 55th plenary meeting, on 4 November 2003.

The reports of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/58/L.30/Rev.1 and A/58/L.38 have been issued as documents A/58/653 and A/58/654, respectively.

I give the floor to the representative of Mexico to introduce draft resolution A/58/L.30/Rev.1.

Ms. Anguiano Rodríguez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for the delegation of Mexico to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, the draft resolution on the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), which is contained in document A/58/L.30/Rev.1. In addition to the countries listed in the version of the draft resolution that we are introducing today, Japan has joined the list of sponsors.

With the signing of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, on 29 December 1996, the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca put an end to more than three decades of armed conflict in Guatemala. The Agreement was the result of a six-year negotiation process sponsored by the United Nations. Since that time, at the request of the parties, the United Nations, through MINUGUA, has played a fundamental role in the peace process: verifying compliance with the commitments arising from the Agreement. That role has been widely recognized by the parties to the agreements and by Guatemalan society as a whole.

The draft resolution that we are introducing today takes note of the reports submitted under this item. In particular, it responds to the request of the Government of Guatemala and of that country's civil society that the Mission's mandate be extended for one more year, until the end of 2004, so that it can accompany the peace process during the first year of the mandate of the Government that will assume its duties in January.

Among the draft resolution's new elements, I should like to highlight the appeal to those who will be

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04-20853 (E)

elected on 28 December to support the peace agreements as State accords and to incorporate them into their governmental plans, in conformity with the commitment undertaken by the main political parties in July 2003. Also included is a reference to the meeting of the Consultative Group for Guatemala held in May 2003, in which all participants agreed that the peace agreements should remain the essential road map for Guatemala's development. In addition, there is a reference to the recent agreement to establish an office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala. That will lend continuity to the verification work carried out by MINUGUA, once the Mission's mandate has been completed.

As already indicated, with the adoption of this draft resolution, the Assembly will authorize a final renewal of the Mission's mandate from 1 January to 31 December 2004, in conformity with the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report. In addition, we request the Secretary-General to submit to the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly a report on the implementation of the resolution and a final report on the Mission's work.

I wish to indicate an editorial correction to the English version of the draft resolution under consideration. So that it is consistent with the English version recorded on behalf of the sponsors, in operative paragraphs 2 and 12 of the text, the words "with satisfaction" after the word "welcomes" must be deleted.

Guatemala is now in a time of political transition in which the international community's support, through the Mission, remains very important. We trust that the political forces and Guatemalan society as a whole will maintain their commitment to the peace agreements and will commit themselves to completing the tasks remaining in the implementation of those agreements.

In this, which will be the final extension of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, we hope that draft resolution A/58/L.30/Rev.1 will have the Assembly's unanimous support.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.30/Rev.1, entitled "United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala", as orally corrected.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.30/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/58/L.30/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 58/238).

The President: I shall now call on the representative of Japan, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Omura (Japan): The Japanese delegation would like to provide an explanation regarding my Government's support of the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.30/Rev.1, entitled "United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala". Japan believes that continued support for and strengthening of cooperation with the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) are critical for the enhancement of cooperation relations with Guatemala and with the Central American region as a whole, and has decided to sponsor this draft resolution to extend its mandate.

At the same time, my delegation would like to stress that, while the extension of this Mission will not immediately result in an increase in the United Nations budget, we are generally quite concerned about the budget's continuing expansion. It is essential that, from this point forward, MINUGUA strive to accelerate its activities and to bring its final mandate to a conclusion expeditiously through closer coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and with other relevant organs of the United Nations system that are conducting activities on the ground.

The President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

Draft resolution A/58/L.38 is entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

Before proceeding to take action on draft resolution A/58/L.38, I should like to announce that, since its publication, the following countries have become sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Estonia, Germany, Grenada, Jamaica, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia,

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Suriname and Switzerland.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/58/L.38?

Draft resolution A/58/L.38 was adopted (resolution 58/239).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 26?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 52 (*continued*)

Oceans and the law of the sea

Draft resolution (A/58/L.19)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/648)

The President: Members will recall that the Assembly held the debate on this item at its 63rd and 64th plenary meetings, on 24 November 2003.

The report of the Fifth Committee on its programme budget implications is contained in document A/58/648.

We will proceed to consider draft resolution A/58/L.19.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the voting. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Tekin (Turkey): Turkey will vote against the draft resolution entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", contained in document A/58/L.19.

The reason for my delegation's negative vote is that some of the elements contained in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that had prevented Turkey from approving the Convention are once again retained in this year's draft resolution. Turkey supports the international efforts to establish a regime of the sea that is based on the principle of equity and that can be acceptable to all States. However, the Convention does not make adequate provision for special geographical situations and, as a consequence, is not able to establish an acceptable balance between conflicting interests. Furthermore, the Convention makes no provision for registering reservations on specific clauses.

Although we agree with the Convention in its general intent and most of its provisions, we are unable to become a party to it because of those serious shortcomings. That being the case, we cannot support the draft resolution, which calls upon States to become parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea and to harmonize their national legislation with its provisions.

Mr. Pulido León (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to explain its position in the forthcoming voting on the draft resolution entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", contained in document A/58/L.19.

The delegation of Venezuela wishes once again to place on record its commitment to supporting, as it has always done in the past, efforts to promote coordination and cooperation with respect to oceans and the law of the sea. However, the difficulties that have prevented my country from becoming a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea remain unchanged and in effect, despite the fact that the Convention entered into force more than two decades ago. Its standards therefore do not apply to Venezuela, since my country is not a party to that international instrument.

That is why my delegation wishes once again to place on record the fact that, for the reasons I have just noted, certain aspects of the draft resolution on the Convention on the Law of the Sea, contained in document A/58/L.19 under agenda item 52 (a), will compel us to abstain in the imminent voting.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/58/L.19, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

I should like to announce that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become co-sponsors: Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Mauritius, Sierra Leone and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Turkey

Abstaining:

Colombia, Venezuela

Draft resolution A/58/L.19 was adopted by 156 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions (resolution 58/240).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Guyana informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour and the delegation of Azerbaijan informed the Secretariat that it had not intended to participate in the voting.]

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 52?

It was so decided.

Reports of the First, Second, Third and Sixth Committees

The President: The General Assembly will now take up the following reports in order to take action on remaining draft resolutions, those dealing with the report of the First Committee on agenda item 73; the reports of the Second Committee on sub-items (b) and (f) of agenda item 94; the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 110 and 113 and on sub-items (b) and (c) of agenda item 117, as well as the report of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 155.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the First, Second, Third and Sixth Committees that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the First, Second, Third and Sixth Committees have been made clear in the Committees and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations

of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the First, Second, Third and Sixth Committees, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committees, unless notified otherwise in advance. This means that where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Committees.

Agenda item 73 (*continued*)

General and complete disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/58/462)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/646)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the First Committee on agenda item 73 to take action on draft resolution I recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 82 of its report (A/58/462).

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I is contained in document A/58/646.

Draft resolution I is entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects". In the Committee, draft resolution I was adopted with a recorded vote. However, it is my understanding that there is no vote requested in the plenary.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution I without a vote?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/241).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 73?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the First Committee before it.

Agenda item 94 (*continued*)

Environment and sustainable development

(b) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.2)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/655)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Second Committee on sub-item (b) of agenda item 94 to take action on draft resolution I recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/58/484/Add.2).

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I is contained in document A/58/655.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution I. Is there any objection to this request? There is none.

I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution I, on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican

Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution I was retained by 161 votes to 1.

The President: The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I as a whole. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/242).

The President: I have one request for explanation of vote after the vote. I give the floor to the representative of the United States.

Mrs. Tamlyn (United States of America): The United States remains opposed to the financing of conference services for this treaty body from the United Nations on a non-reimbursable basis. In accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Member States of the United Nations are not responsible for expenses relating to treaty body activities. However, in the context of our overall deliberations on the 2004-2005 budget and in keeping with our position that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 the budget be adopted by consensus, the United States has not blocked provisions for this resource requirement from the contingency fund.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

(f) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.6)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/656)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/58/484/Add.6). The draft resolution is entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. Is there any objection to this request? There is none.

I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, on which a separate vote has been requested.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic,

Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution was retained by 161 votes to 1.

The President: The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution as a whole. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/243).

The President: One delegation has requested the floor in explanation of vote after the vote. I give the floor to the delegation of the United States.

Mrs. Tamlyn (United States of America): As stated previously, the United States is opposed to the financing of conference services for this treaty body from the United Nations on a non-reimbursable basis. In accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Member States of the United Nations are not responsible for expenses relating to treaty body activities. However, in the context of our overall deliberations on the 2004-2005 budget and in keeping with our position that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 the budget be adopted by consensus, the United States has not blocked provisions for this resource requirement from the contingency fund.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Second Committee (A/58/495)

The President: I now give the floor to the Rapporteur of the Second Committee, Mr. José Alberto Briz Gutiérrez of Guatemala.

Mr. Briz Gutiérrez (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour once again of addressing the General Assembly in relation to agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", assigned to the Second Committee. I wish to call to the attention of the plenary an omission in paragraph 18 of document A/58/495, where, as a recommendation of the Second Committee, a new decision should be included, after decision I. Thus the existing draft decision II, which concerns the Second Committee's proposed programme of work for 2004, becomes draft decision III.

The new draft decision II, entitled "Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests", was adopted by consensus by the Second Committee and is contained in chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/58/3 (Part I)) and in A/C.2/58/6. The text of the draft decision has been circulated informally to the delegations in the Hall.

The President: If there is no objection, the Assembly will resume its consideration of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", document A/58/495, to take action on draft decision II

recommended by the Committee in paragraph 18 of its report, the text of which is contained in document A/C.2/58/6 in all languages and was reproduced and circulated in English in the Hall.

Draft decision II is entitled "Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II, recommended by the Second Committee?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/554).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Second Committee before it.

Agenda item 110 (*continued*)

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/501)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/649)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 110 to take action on draft resolution VII recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 43 of its report in document A/58/501.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution VII is contained in document A/58/649.

Draft resolution VII is entitled "Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 126 votes to 5, with 30 abstentions (resolution 58/244).

[Subsequently the delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Africa informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 110?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/504)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/652)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 113 to take action on draft resolution III recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 65 of its report in document A/58/504.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution III is contained in document A/58/652.

Draft resolution III is entitled "Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Hungary, Latvia, Mongolia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Venezuela

Draft resolution III was adopted by 115 votes to 20, with 28 abstentions (resolution 58/245).

[Subsequently the delegation of India informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The President: May I take it that it is wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Human rights questions

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.2)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/650)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Third Committee on

agenda item 117 to take action on draft resolution XXVIII recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 131 of its report in document A/58/508/Add.2.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution XXVIII is contained in document A/58/650.

Draft resolution XXVIII is entitled "Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XXVIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XXVIII was adopted (resolution 58/246).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 117.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Third Committee (A/58/508/Add.3)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/651)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Third Committee on sub-item (c) of agenda item 117 to take action on draft resolution II, recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 57 of its report in document A/58/508/Add.3.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution II is contained in document A/58/651.

Draft resolution II is entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/247).

I call on the representative of Myanmar, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Tun (Myanmar): In the Third Committee, Myanmar disassociated itself from draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.63/Rev.1, as orally revised, contained in report A/58/508/Add.3 as draft resolution II.

I would like to request that, for reasons already given in the Third Committee, Myanmar's disassociation from the resolution be duly reflected in the official records.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 117?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded consideration of all the reports of the Third Committee.

Agenda item 155 (*continued*)

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Report of the Sixth Committee (A/58/517)

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/647)

The President: The Assembly will resume consideration of the report of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 155 to take action on draft resolution I recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report (A/58/517).

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I is contained in document A/58/647.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

The Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/248).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 155?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Sixth Committee before it.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 12, 118, 124 to 126, 131 to 134, 138, 140, 143 (a), 165, 166, 120, 122, 59, 121, 120 together with 121 and 161, and 119.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Fouad Rajeh of Saudi Arabia, to introduce in one intervention the reports of the Fifth Committee.

Mr. Rajeh (Saudi Arabia), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee containing recommendations on issues that required action during the main part of the fifty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly.

The Fifth Committee met on 30 September and from 6 October to 22 December 2003. It held 30 plenary meetings and more than 100 rounds of informal consultations, excluding the many rounds of closed, informal consultations held outside the venue of Conference Room 5, particularly on the items "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" and "Pattern of conferences" and the reports submitted under agenda item 59, "Strengthening of the United Nations system".

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the intense negotiations on the draft resolution on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, which was held nightly over the past week and this weekend, lasting throughout the night in Conference Room 5. I therefore have the honour to present the following brief report on the work of the Fifth Committee, whose recommendations to the Assembly were all adopted without a vote.

Under agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", in paragraph 8 of its report in document A/58/588 the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft decisions. Draft decision I is entitled "Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund"; draft decision II takes note of chapters I, VII (sections B and C) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council. The two draft decisions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 118, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", in paragraph 7 of its report in document A/58/570 the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 124, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", in paragraph 7 of its report in document A/58/432/Add.1 the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 125, entitled "Pattern of conferences", in paragraph 6 of its report in document A/58/575, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on pattern of conferences, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 126, entitled "United Nations common system", the Committee recommends to the General Assembly in paragraph 8 of its report in document A/58/576 the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The reports of the Committee on agenda items 131 and 132 — "Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994" and "Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991" — are contained in documents A/58/579 and A/58/580, respectively. In paragraph 7 of document A/58/579 and in paragraph 7 of document A/58/580, respectively, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft

resolutions that were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 133, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraph 6 of its report in document A/58/581, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under agenda item 134, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations", in paragraphs 12 and 13 of its report in document A/58/582, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions and two draft decisions. Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations" and draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates". Draft decision I is entitled "Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy" and draft decision II is entitled "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse". All those draft proposals were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The reports of the Committee on the financing of the following four peacekeeping operations — under agenda item 138, "Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"; under agenda item 140, "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor"; under agenda item 143 (a), "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission"; and, under agenda item 165, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" — are contained in documents A/58/583, A/58/584, A/58/585 and A/58/589, respectively. In paragraph 6 of each report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution or draft decision, all of which were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 166, "Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund", is contained in document A/58/590. In paragraph 6 of its report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Agenda item 120 is entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003". In paragraphs 19 and 20 of its report on that item (A/58/572), the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of four draft resolutions and three draft decisions, respectively: draft resolution I, "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the revenue-producing activities of the United Nations system"; draft resolution II, "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda"; draft resolution III, "Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme"; draft resolution IV, "Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions"; draft decision I, "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system"; draft decision II, "Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa"; and draft decision III, "Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: follow-up". All those draft proposals were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Committee regarding the second performance report for the biennium 2002-2003 under agenda item 120, "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003", is contained in document A/58/572/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of its report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, "Final budget appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003", which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Agenda item 122 is entitled "Programme planning". In paragraph 6 of its report on that item (A/58/574), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution that was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Agenda item 59 is entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system". The report of the Committee on that item is contained in document A/58/587. In paragraph 6 of its report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Agenda item 121 is entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005". In its report on that item (A/58/573), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of draft report A/C.5/58/L.56, Parts I and II; Part I relates to the measures adopted by the Committee with regard to the programme budget, and Part II contains the Committee's recommendations. With respect to agenda item 121, the Committee considered 11 draft reports on the implications of the proposed programme budget. Document A/C.5/58/L.53 contains the 11 draft reports on the implications of the proposed programme budget, which were adopted by the Committee without a vote. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of those reports and decisions, contained in documents A/58/646 and A/58/656.

Here, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the following corrections to the draft resolution I in document A/18/573.

(*spoke in English*)

In paragraph 45, the text "rule 105.6 (a)" should be replaced by the text "rule 105.6".

Turning to the end of section 24, the Assembly would endorse the narrative of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 24.64 to 24.69 of section 24, Human rights.

Agenda item 161, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire", was considered by the Fifth Committee, together with agenda item 120, "Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003", and agenda item 121, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005". In paragraph 7 of its report (A/58/586), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

Agenda item 119 is entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". In paragraph 14 of its report (A/58/571), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of five draft resolutions. Draft resolution I is entitled "Outsourcing practices". Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management audit review of outsourcing in the United Nations and the United Nations funds and programmes". Draft resolution III is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on common and joint services of the United Nations system organizations at Vienna". Draft resolution IV is entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the Investment Management Service of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund". Draft resolution V is entitled "Review of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in United Nations administrative processes and procedures". Those five draft resolutions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

In paragraph 5 of the addendum to that report (A/58/571/Add.1), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft decisions: draft decision I, on the biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2004-2005; and draft decision II, on questions deferred for future consideration. Both draft decisions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Group of Asian States for demonstrating their confidence in me by asking me to serve as Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. I also thank the chairperson of the Committee and the Deputy Secretary, Ms. Nora Benary, for the considerable efforts they have made. I also thank delegations for their cooperation. I assure them that the changes made to documents in the course of the Fifth Committee's 30th meeting, held this morning, have been duly taken into account and will be reflected in corrected documents as needed. Finally I wish all my colleagues the best for New Year and Christmas.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the

General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanation of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind Members that by paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

May I remind delegations also that in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee unless notified otherwise in advance. I therefore hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/588)

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

Draft decision I is entitled "Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund".

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt draft decision I without a vote.

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/555).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II, recommended by the Fifth Committee?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/556).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 118

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/570)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/249).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its recommendations of agenda item 118.

Agenda item 124 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/432/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/1 B).

The President: I shall now give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Alarcón (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): With respect to the resolution on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations that has just been adopted, I would like to thank all delegations that participated, with generosity and in good faith, in the negotiations leading to the more appropriate distribution of the assessments.

As all delegations know, the methodology adopted in 2000 for application over the following three years, created significant distortions that were detrimental to certain countries, particularly developing countries. Unfortunately, the methodology that is in place does not produce fair or equitable results. Costa Rica, together with 14 other nations, experienced an increase in its assessment of more than 50 per cent. The negotiations on the scale of assessments made it possible to reduce the negative impact of the methodology, thanks to the voluntary increase agreed to by the Russian Federation, as well as to bilateral agreements between some of the worst-affected States and others that were interested in resolving this unjust situation.

Costa Rica would like to thank the Government and the people of Spain for their solidarity and generosity. Thanks to them, the increase in my country's assessment during the forthcoming period will be more reasonable — although it will still be significant. My delegation will never forget the noble and visionary initiative of the Spanish people.

The difficulties we faced this year in negotiating the scale of assessments made it clear that we need to undertake an in-depth review of the methodology leading to a sound, fair and equitable calculation that is independent of political considerations. My delegation is prepared to start working to ensure that in 2006 we can adopt a new and better methodology. Likewise, we must provide the Committee on Contributions with clear technical, non-political criteria so as to enable it to evaluate the situation of each of the Member States with greater objectivity and with justice.

Mr. Ramlal (Trinidad and Tobago): During my delegation's statement during the meeting of the Fifth Committee on 15 October on agenda item 124, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", we emphasized four issues, which we viewed as critical to our deliberations.

First, we made clear our unswerving commitment to abide by the agreements contained in resolution 55/5 B, of 23 December 2000, which, among other things, fixed the elements of the scale methodology for two trienniums, namely, 2001-2003 and 2004-2006. Secondly, we emphasized the need for greater political commitment on the part of all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Thirdly, we also emphasized the need for the General Assembly to extend sympathetic understanding to those who may be temporarily unable to meet their financial obligations because of genuine economic difficulties. Fourthly, we stressed that, consistent with the technical and political considerations inherent in the scale of assessments, due consideration would be given by the Assembly to ensuring adherence to the fundamental principles and processes which have guided the Assembly over the past 50 years in its deliberations on the scale of assessments.

One of these long-standing principles has been the evolutionary nature of the scale methodology and the related need to ensure that there are no substantial increases in the individual rates of assessments of Member States over successive scale periods. Accordingly, in the context of negotiations on the draft resolution on the scale of assessments, Trinidad and Tobago sought to ensure full adherence to all the agreements contained in resolution 55/5 B, as well as to those principles which have guided the Assembly on this agenda item. We are pleased to have been a part of a consensus resolution on this important agenda item. We would also like to take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation to those delegations whose goodwill facilitated a decision on this agenda item, particularly the Government of Spain.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 124.

Agenda item 125

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/575)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the

Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/58/L.42.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/250).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 125.

Agenda item 126

United Nations common system

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/576)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/251).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude this stage of its consideration of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 131

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/579)

The President: The Assembly will now take action on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Second performance report for the biennium 2002-2003 on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/252).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/253).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 131.

Agenda item 132

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/580)

The President: The Assembly will take action on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Second performance report for the biennium 2002-2003 on the International

Tribunal for Yugoslavia for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/254).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/255).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 132.

Agenda item 133

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/581)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/256).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 133.

Agenda item 134

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/582)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 12 of its report and on the two draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 13 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/257).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the establishment and management of mission subsistence allowance rates".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/258).

The President: We turn next to draft decision I entitled "Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/557).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/558).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 134.

Agenda item 138

Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/583)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/259).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 138.

Agenda item 140

Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/584)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/260).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 140.

Agenda item 143

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/585)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 58/559).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 143.

Agenda item 165

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/589)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/261).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 165.

Agenda item 166

Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/590)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/262).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 166?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 120

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/58/572 and A/58/572/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will turn first to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/58/572.

The Assembly will take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 19 of the report and on the three draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 20 of the same report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the revenue-producing activities of the United Nations system".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/263).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/264).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/265).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/266).

The President: We now turn to draft decision I, entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/560).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/561).

The President: Draft decision III is entitled "Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: follow-up".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision III was adopted (decision 58/562).

The President: The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/58/572/Add.1.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The draft resolution is entitled "Final budget appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/267).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 120.

Agenda item 122

Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/574)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/58/L.46.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/268).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 122.

Agenda item 59 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/587)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The text of the draft resolution, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/58/L.47.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/269).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 59.

Agenda item 121

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/573)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 59 of its report, which, for the time being, are contained in Part II, section IV, of document A/C.5/58/L.56.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/270).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/271).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/272).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/273).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 58/274).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolutions just adopted.

Ms. Goycochea (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation went along with the adoption without a vote of the draft resolution on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, despite our reservations about a number of its provisions. Although my delegation understands that a budget resolution should not become an extensive policy document, we believe that it should include a number of provisions that put financial decisions in context. Therefore, we think a resolution text such as this, negotiated under exceptional circumstances, is inherently exceptional and should not be a precedent for future resolutions. That is without prejudice to the merits of the resolution just adopted, which are recognized by all delegations. In that context, my delegation would like to thank the Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan for his extraordinary efforts to arrive at this outcome.

My delegation notes that the resolution once again imposes budgetary cuts on the amount of resources requested by the Secretary-General. We believe that everyone's commitment to the Organization should include unrestricted support for reform measures and should be reflected in consistent and unconditional support for the budgetary requests that enable the Organization to function smoothly. That would be more coherent.

The Cuban delegation is also concerned that the draft resolution has been used to promote certain reform decisions in the absence of specific decisions on the part of the relevant legislative bodies. It is in that context that we express serious reservations about the approval of the four posts requested by the Secretary-General in document A/58/569 for section 24, "Human rights", related to the implementation of measures 3 and 4 of his reform plan. Although Cuba accepted the establishment of those posts, showing great flexibility, we have serious questions about them, in that their establishment constitutes a violation of paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 57/300. We shall carry out the necessary follow-up on this issue once the relevant legislative bodies have indicated their position.

Mr. Kennedy (United States of America): The United States remains opposed to the financing by the United Nations of conference services for treaty bodies when the treaty itself calls for the States parties to bear such costs. In accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States are not responsible for expenses related to such treaty body activities. However, in the context of our overall deliberations on the 2004-2005 budget and in keeping with our position that — in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 — the budget should be adopted by consensus, the United States has not blocked provision for several allocations from the contingency fund, but we shall continue to oppose such expenditures.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 121.

Agenda items 120 and 121 (*continued*) and 161

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/586)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The draft

resolution is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 58/275).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 120, 121 and 161.

Agenda item 119

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Reports of the Fifth Committee (A/58/571 and Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will turn first to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/58/571.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Outsourcing practices".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 58/276).

The President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management audit review of outsourcing in the United Nations and the United Nations funds and programmes".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 58/277).

The President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on common and joint services of United Nations system organizations at Vienna".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 58/278).

The President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the Investment Management Service of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 58/279).

The President: Draft resolution V is entitled "Review of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in United Nations administrative processes and procedures".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 58/280).

The President: The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/58/571/Add.1.

The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report. The texts of the draft decisions, for the time being, are contained in documents A/C.5/58/L.55 and A/C.5/58/L.54, respectively.

Draft decision I is entitled "Biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee for 2004-2005".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 58/563).

The President: Draft decision II is entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration".

The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 58/564).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 119.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Fifth Committee before it.

Programme of work

The President: Apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken by the Assembly thus far, I should like to propose that the following agenda items remain for consideration during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly: agenda items 3 (b), 10 to 12, 17, 18, 23 (a), 25, 28, 37, 38, 40 (b), 41, 44, 47, 49, 50, 55 to 60, 83, 85, 94 (e), 117 (b) and (d), 118 to 122, 124, 125, 131 to 134, 138, 140, 143, 160, 161 and 165.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly that those agenda items remain for consideration during the fifty-eighth session of the Assembly?

It was so decided (decision 58/565).

Statement by the President

The President: It is now my pleasure to speak the words that, I am confident, we all want to hear: we have concluded our work for the first part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Given the challenges we faced at the beginning and throughout the session, what we have been able to achieve together and the ambitious agenda we have set for ourselves for the remainder of the session, I believe it is safe to say that this session thus far has been nothing short of extraordinary.

We started this session with a most dynamic and substantive general debate. The overall policy direction provided by the record number of heads of State or Government and other high-level participants in the general debate underpinned and stimulated the work of the Main Committees and of subsidiary bodies. Therefore, we were better prepared to address the myriad critical issues on our agenda, including HIV/AIDS, financing for development, humanitarian assistance, an enhanced role for the General Committee and the revitalization of the General Assembly itself.

I was personally very optimistic at the beginning of this session that we were ready to move decisively to advance the process of revitalizing the General Assembly. I was ever conscious of the impact that a revitalized Assembly could have on the status of the United Nations in the global community. I am pleased that my reading of the readiness of Member States to move in that direction was right and that we have begun, with the adoption of a consensus resolution, a process for strengthening and revitalizing the General Assembly.

On all the issues it has addressed thus far in this session, the General Assembly has put its shoulders to the wheel to accomplish the tasks at hand. We all know that it was not easy, and in fact at times it was exceptionally difficult. But each of our steps forward spoke volumes about our determination to reach accommodation, even when the challenges seemed intractable. I believe we have thus earned the right to be highly satisfied with our accomplishments.

In particular, I am deeply appreciative of the support you have all provided in completing our work and the support you have given to me personally. In so doing, you have lightened my significant task. What we have accomplished redounds to the benefit of the General Assembly, of the United Nations and, consequently, of the various national constituencies that make up our global community.

I want especially to express my heartfelt thanks to Permanent Representatives, delegates, chairpersons and members of regional and interest groups, and facilitators for the tremendous cooperation and support they have given me during this first part of the session. I look forward to their continued cooperation and support in the remainder of the session.

The support of the Secretariat is integral to our collective effort to accomplish the goals and objectives of the General Assembly. I am especially indebted to the Under-Secretary-General and officers of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, who have spared no effort in assisting me and my Cabinet in every aspect of our work.

The forthcoming period will be a demanding one, filled with challenge and great opportunity. We have laid out a very demanding agenda for what remains to

be done during the rest of the session. On revitalization alone, our consensus resolution commits us to take up four key issues: the scheduling of future General Assembly sessions, including the work of the Main Committees and subsidiary and related bodies; the rationalization of the Assembly's agenda; the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items; and the rationalization of the working methods of the Main Committees. As members are well aware, revitalization is but one of the myriad issues to which we must turn our attention. Others, including planning and preparation for the major events of 2005, will also have to be taken up with the greatest of resolve.

I have some good news: we will resume in January 2004. Technically speaking, that is next year, and we have all earned the right to rest, relaxation and recreation in the interim. I also have some not-so-good news: January 2004 is but a mere nine days away. Notwithstanding that fact, I hope that we will all be back in January, energized and, indeed, revitalized and ready to contribute to the fullest to the implementation of the courses of action on which we have agreed.

On that note, I wish all delegations and their families a wonderful holiday season and a successful and very happy New Year.

I am now pleased to declare this part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly closed. I will ask members of the Assembly to join me in standing and giving ourselves a round of applause.

The meeting rose at 9.05 p.m.